

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJ: AALC ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA

REF: LAGOS 4607

SUMMARY: ODEYEMI HOPES TO KEEP AALC IN NIGERIA AND PLANS
APPROACH IRVING BROWN AND AALC DEPUTY DIRECTOR FUNK IN GENEVA.

1. AALC REPRESENTATIVE IN NIGERIA, DICK ARNOLD, INFORMED
EMBASSY MAY 21 ULC GENERAL SECRETARY ODEYEMI HAS CALLED ON
HIM TWICE THIS WEEK. ODEYEMI STATED ULC HAS DECIDED SUSPEND
TUI COURSES FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS, IS CONSIDERING REPLACING
TUI DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESHIETT, AND WANTS ARNOLD TO STAY IN
NIGERIA IN AN UNSPECIFIED CAPACITY. ULC WOULD ENSURE ISSUANCE
OF PROPER VISA FOR ARNOLD.

2. ARNOLD TOLD ODEYEMI TO WRITE AALC HEADQUARTERS ON THIS
AS HE IS NOT IN PSOTION TO GIVE DEFINITE ANSWERS. ODEYEMI
REPLIED HE WOULD PREFER DISCUSS ENTIRE MATTER OF AALC/ULC
RELATIONS WITH IRVING BROWN AND AALC DEPUTY DIRECTOR JERRY
FUNK IN GENEVA DURING FORTHCOMING ILO CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: ODEYEMI'S "SUSPENSION" OF TUI ACTIVITIES SEEMS
IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AALC TO PULL OUT OF NIGERIA TEMPORARILY
AND REASSESS VALUE OF ITS NIGERIAN PROGRAM. SIX-MONTH HIATUS
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WOULD HOPEFULLY SEE PRESENT STATE OF FLUX IN NIGERIAN LABOR

MOVEMENT ENDED, AND AALC COULD THEN MAKE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO REOPEN TUI EITHER UNDER NIGERIAN LABOR CONGRESS OR PERHAPS WITH NO AFFILIATION TO ANY ONE CENTRAL LABOR BODY. EMBASSY FEELS AALC CANNOT, AND SHOULD NOT, CONTINUE WORKING SOLELY WITH ULC, ESPECIALLY WITH ULC UNDER ODEYEMI'S CONTROL. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE AALC SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE ITS VALUABLE AND NECESSARY EDUCATION WORK WHICH HAS BENEFITTED MOST ULC AFFILIATES. PERHAPS WHEN INTERNAL TRADE UNION SITUATION IS CLARIFIED AALC WILL BE ABLE TO FIND APPROPRIATE MEANS OF CONTINUING ITS PROGRAM.

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW ODEYEMI APPROACHES BROWN AND FUNK ON THIS. WE FIND IT INTERESTING ODEYEMI MADE NO MENTION AALC DIRECTOR O'FARRELL IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ARNOLD. HE MAY BE UNDER IMPRESSION BROWN AND FUNK MORE LIKELY ACCEPT ARGUMENT AALC SHOULD REMAIN IN NIGERIA TO ASSIST FREE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS AGAINST ALLEGED UPSURGE OF LEFT-WING UNION ACTIVITY.
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